

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 NEA-10

DRC-01 /150 W

----- 067019

R 080939Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7363

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USNMR SHAPE

USLO SACLANT

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ENRG, NO, UR, SV

SUBJECT: SOVIET-NORWEGIAN RELATIONS

REF: OSLO'S 3449

1. SUMMARY: DURING NOVEMBER 5 VISIT WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE, DCM INQUIRED ABOUT RECENT COMMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE SOVIETS ARE "PRESSING" NORWAY IN CONNECTION WITH SPITSBERGEN SVALBARD). VIBE EXPLAINED THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN DISCUSSING SVALBARD WITH MEMBERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT, THAT THE SOVIETS ARE SEEKING MUCH BROADER NEGOTIATIONS ON SVALBARD THAN THE NORWEGIANS WISH AND HAVE PROPOSED SPECIFIC  
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MEASURES OF "COOPERATION" THERE. VIBE WILL PRESUMABLY BE

DISCUSSING THESE PROBLEMS, AS WELL AS VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI TO USSR, PERHAPS NEXT MARCH, ON A TRIP TO MOSCOW THIS MONTH. END SUMMARY.

2. IT WAS NOT CLEAR FROM FORMIN FRYDENLUND'S REMARK TO THE AMBASSADOR ON NOVEMBER 3 THAT SOVIETS ARE "PRESSING" NORWAY, WHETHER HE WAS REFERRING TO SOME NEW DEVELOPMENT OR REFLECTING FACT HE HAD JUST BEEN BRIEFED ON BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH USSR (DISCUSSED IN REFTEL). VISIT TO VIBE ON OTHER MATTERS PROVIDED DCM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK FOR CLARIFICATION. VIBE SAID HE TOO WAS SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BUT ASSUMED FORMIN WAS REFERRING TO FACT SOVIET AMBASSADOR ROMANOVSKIY HAD BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN RECENT DAYS PRESENTING SOVIET VIEWS ON SVALBARD TO MEMBERS OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT AND DIFFERENT MINISTRIES.

3. FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH VIBE SUGGESTED THAT THERE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN SOME DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOVIET POSITION SINCE THE REFTEL. REITERATING VIEWS REPORTED REFTEL THAT SOVIETS ARE SEEKING A SPECIAL STATUS FOR USSR ON SVALBARD, VIBE DREW A PARALLEL WITH THE WARTIME DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TRYGVE LIE AND MX MOLOTOV WHEN SOVIETS SOUGHT CONTROL, OR AT LEAST A CONDOMINIUM ON SVALBARD. NORWEGIANS ARE INTERESTED, VIBE SAID, IN HOLDING LIMITED DISCUSSIONS AMONG LEGAL EXPERTS ON THE VARIOUS ISSUES IN DISPUTE (FEES FOR CLAIMS, LICENSING OF TRANSMITTERS, ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS ETC), BUT THE SOVIETS HAVE PROPOSED FAR-REACHING DISCUSSIONS ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL OF "COOPERATION" ON SVALBARD. SOME OF MOSCOW'S PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATION (E.G. JOINT DISCUSSIONS AMONG SCIENTISTS) NORWEGIANS COULD PROBABLY ACCEPT, BUT OTHER PROPOSALS (E.G. JOINT OIL EXPLORATION) GO TOO FAR. SOVIETS ARE IMPATIENT, VIBE SAID, BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE NORWEGIAN COUNTER-DRAFT PREPARED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY REGARDING MANAGEMENT OF THE AIRPORT BEING CONSTRUCTED AT HOTELLNESETT. THERE IS STILL NO AGREEMENT ON THE NUMBER OF SOVIETS AUTHORIZED AT THE AIRPORT.

4. ASKED HOW THE PLANNING WAS COMING IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCED TRIP TO THE USSR EARLY NEXT YEAR, VIBE SAID THAT THE TRIP WOULD PROBABLY NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL MARCH. IN DISCUSSING WHAT MIGHT COME UP DURING THE VISIT, E.G. CONFIDENTIAL

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ON THE QUESTION OF CONSULTATIONS, VIBE IMPLIED SOME CONCERN-- AS THOUGH HE ANTICIPATED THAT MOSCOW WOULD SEEK A "NEW STAGE" OF CONSULTATIONS BEYOND THAT CONTAINED IN THE LAST BRATTELI-KOSYGIN COMMUNIQUE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE SOVIETS WOULD SEEK TO INCORPORATE LANGUAGE ON CONSULTATIONS IN A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, RATHER THAN PROPOSING A SEPARATE PROTOCOL. NORWAY IS ANXIOUS, VIBE SAID, TO AVOID LANGUAGE ON CONSULTATIONS AS FAR-REACHING AS THAT IN THE CANADIAN AND FRENCH PROTOCOLS

REQUIRING CONSULTATION IN PERIODS OF CRISIS. LANGUAGE OF THE FINNISH-SOVIET TREATY OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IS PARTICULARLY OBJECTIONABLE. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES SIGNED DURING PODGORNÝ'S VISIT TO TURKEY COMES CLOSER IN ITS GENERALITIES TO WHAT NORWAY COULD ACCEPT.

5. VIBE VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY BE LEAVING FOR THE USSR ON NOVEMBER 14. (WE UNDERSTAND USSR DESK OFFICER STENSETH WILL PROBABLY ACCOMPANY HIM.) VIBE EXPLAINED THAT HIS PREDECESSOR HAD HELD PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS, THAT HE HAD HOPED TO POSTPONE VISITING MOSCOW BUT HAD CONCLUDED HE SHOULD ACCEPT REPEATED SOVIET INVITATIONS. BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SOVEREIGNTY, NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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